

# County of Santa Clara

## Public Health Department

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**For Immediate Release:**  
**May 5, 2003**

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## **Santa Clara County Kicks Off Water Safety Efforts During Drowning Prevention Month**

SAN JOSE, CA- The summertime brings warm weather and water activities, but it is also the time that more children are at risk of drowning. The Santa Clara County Child Injury Prevention (CIP) Workgroup is promoting child-drowning prevention and water-safety awareness during a press conference on Wednesday, May 7 at Fair Swim Center, 11:45 a.m.

During the press conference, CIP Workgroup members will offer water safety tips and introduce "Pool Safety Kits" that include information on water safety, pool safety, pool-safety equipment and "Water Watcher" tags. The CIP Workgroup is distributing the "Pool Safety Kits" throughout the community in efforts to prevent tragic drowning and near-drowning incidents. In addition, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors has proclaimed the month of May as Drowning Prevention Month.

Drowning is a major cause of childhood injury and death. In the United States, approximately 5,000 children under 14 years of age are hospitalized due to near drowning. In California, as well as Santa Clara County, the number one cause of unintentional injury-related death among children under five years of age is drowning. What's more, in Santa Clara County, drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death for children and youth under 20 years of age.

The health outcomes of near-drowning can also be devastating. Children who survive can suffer permanent and severe injuries such as brain damage and long-term disabilities.

Drowning and near-drowning can occur in any body of water, including hot tubs, bathtubs, toilets, even water buckets.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 7  
**Time:** 11:45 a.m.  
**Location:** Fair Swim Center  
1350 Bacchus Drive (cross street McLaughlin Avenue)

**Speakers:**

- Dr. Louis Girling, Assistant Health Officer, Pediatrician, Medical Director for Maternal Child Health Services, Public Health Department
- Dr. Gregory Schmunk, Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner
- Susan Kerr, Child Injury Prevention Coordinator, Public Health Department